

Before and After

you choose your
tongue and groove
natural cypress flooring



Natural Cypress floors, just like all quality products, must be handled, stored, installed and maintained with care to ensure excellent service.

This leaflet answers many of the most asked questions about tongue and groove natural Cypress floors and highlights important precautions and considerations which you should discuss with your chosen flooring supplier, builder and/or installer before you proceed.

Experience has shown that where dissatisfaction with a tongue and groove timber floor occurs, simple precautions and sensible care have usually been ignored at some stage during the delivery, on-site storage, installation or general care of a floor, or that customers are unaware of the consequences of their choices and decisions.

Read through this leaflet then use the check list at the back to tick off items as you progress.



1 Natural Shrinkage and Expansion

It is most important to understand that tongue and groove Cypress floors are a completely natural material which is sawn, seasoned and machined to a suitable profile.

Natural timber is hygroscopic, it continually takes up and gives off moisture to keep in balance with its surroundings. This results in a process of natural shrinkage and expansion. Visible shrinkage and/or expansion may take a day, a week or even months, resulting in the gaps between floor boards opening and closing depending upon the weather, the season and local influences.

To reduce the degree of shrinkage and expansion, Cypress flooring is generally seasoned or kiln dried to a moisture content between 10% and 15%.

2 The Colour and Features of Cypress

Cypress is a very distinctive timber and is easily recognised by its variegated colour range and the occurrence of knots, a characteristic that provides a remarkably decorative figure on planned surfaces. The colour ranges from light cream or fawn through to dark chocolate and can vary dramatically with differences in sawing techniques. No matter how big a sample you have seen, your floor WILL BE DIFFERENT.

The true colour of a floor will only become evident after it has been sanded and coated with a chosen finish.

3 Board Width

Tongue and groove Cypress flooring is supplied in nominal widths of 75mm, 100mm, 113mm or 150mm. (Actual cover widths of boards will be less and will vary depending on the profile type). Generally boards laid along a room will make the room look longer while boards laid across a room will make it look wider. Other factors such as the sub-floor materials may control the direction the boards must be laid. The

wider the floor board the greater the natural shrinkage/expansion across the face. Therefore during dry periods wider boards may exhibit slightly wider gaps between boards and cupping may also be more apparent.

Both of these conditions generally disappear after a reasonable period of normal humidity/weather conditions.

4 Timber Hardness

Cypress is rated as moderately hard.

5 Top Nail or Secret Nail

Some board widths may be offered in a choice of top nail or secret nail profiles. As the name describes, top nail boards are installed with nails through the top surface, while secret nail profiles are installed with nails through the tongue, and the nails are thus hidden by the adjoining board. For secret nailing, a secret nail profile is required.

6 Choosing a Timber Finish

• Tung-oil

Traditional tung-oil based finishes produce a subdued or semi-gloss appearance. When applied, it is absorbed slightly into the surface of the timber and allows the natural seasonal shrinkage and expansion to occur without highlighting the gaps between boards. Although this finish may show marks more easily than hard surface finishes, most marks are generally easily removed with a little methylated spirits on a damp cloth. Provided tung-oil finishes have not been waxed, areas which receive most traffic can be recoated to restore their appearance.

• Polyurethane

Polyurethane finishes provide a smooth hard surface in a range of glosses. However, because these finishes flow into the tongue and groove joint

Cypress Flooring Checklist

Home Design Considerations

- Under floor ventilation and drainage
- Air conditioning/heating systems
- Skylights/direct sunlight through large window areas
- Location near large body of water (coastal, lakes, rivers, dams, wetlands, etc)
- Dry or moist prevailing winds

Timber Finish Selection

- Tung-oil, subdued/semi-gloss
- Polyurethane, hard, smooth, glossy (seek advice)
- Full length windows/glossy surface reflections
- Refurbishing requirements

Board Selection

- Board width
- Top or secret nail
- Board laying direction

On-Site Storage, Acclimatisation and Laying

- Transport/wrapping
- Storage location off ground protected from elements
- Avoid storage in direct sun or small sheds
- Avoid storage on/in freshly concreted areas
- Keep flooring away from "Wet Trades"
- Allow expansion gaps at walls
- Acclimatising to final location (seek advice). If done, avoid laying during/just after abnormal weather

Caring for Your Timber Floor

- Wipe up spills and remove sand/grit promptly
- Use mats at external doorways



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